

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 261

Designating September 14, 1994, as “Francis Scott Key Day”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 14, 1993

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland (for himself, Mrs. BENTLEY, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WYNN, Mr. HOYER, Mr. GILCHREST, and Mr. MFUME) introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service

JOINT RESOLUTION

Designating September 14, 1994, as “Francis Scott Key Day”.

Whereas Francis Scott Key, lawyer, family man, community leader, patriot, and poet, traveled from Washington, D.C., to Baltimore, Maryland, to seek the freedom of a United States citizen held captive by the British during the War of 1812;

Whereas Francis Scott Key was detained by the British to prevent him from revealing the plans to attack Baltimore and was forced to witness the British assault on Fort McHenry in Baltimore harbor;

Whereas Francis Scott Key was so moved with joy, relief, and exhilaration when he saw the United States flag still flying to indicate the failure of the British attack that he was inspired to compose the poem, at first called “Defence of Fort M’Henry”, which later became the lyrics of our national anthem, “The Star-Spangled Banner”;

Whereas an Act of the Congress made “The Star-Spangled Banner” our national anthem;

Whereas the national anthem is firmly entrenched as a symbol of the spirit of the United States and is beloved by all the people of the United States; and

Whereas Francis Scott Key has not been given sufficient national recognition for his contributions to our Nation’s heritage and spirit: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
- 2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
- 3 That September 14, 1994, is designated as “Francis Scott
- 4 Key Day”, and the President is authorized and requested
- 5 to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United
- 6 States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and
- 7 activities.

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